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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

March 14, 2006

Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson
Carl Weimer

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Barbara Brenner
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Dan McShane
Seth Fleetwood

COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM

1. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND CASCADE BUSINESS PARK FOR OFFICE SPACE UTILIZED AS THE WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL OFFICE LOCATED AT 5373 GUIDE MERIDIAN FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$775/MONTH FOR 2006, \$798.25/MONTH FOR 2007, AND \$822.20 PER MONTH FOR 2008 (AB2006-136)**

Crawford asked if this is a continuation of the current lease.

Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is a continuation and an expansion.

Scott Rossmiller, Lieutenant, stated this is both a current and an expansion of a contract. This is for additional space to get the traffic unit moved out there.

Crawford asked if this is in the current budget. Desler stated it is.

Crawford moved to recommend approval to the full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WHATCOM COALITION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES AS DELEGATED TO THE LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS THROUGH THE WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 (AB2006-137)**

Sue Anderson, Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities Executive Director, stated this contract is to support the Healthy Community Network. It is an outgrowth of the Community Counts Project of community health indicators, which are used for planning for

1 healthy community issues that include the environment, economy, education, and health.
2 Another program is the Leadership of Whatcom program, which brings people from all over
3 the county to develop leadership skills and learn about community issues.
4

5 Nelson asked who they are teaching and what they are teaching in the Leadership of
6 Whatcom program. There were concerns about training leaders. Anderson stated this
7 program is funded from a small amount of the contract. The program has come out of
8 many years of stakeholder meetings. People have continually brought up the issue of
9 leadership, specifically engaging community leaders and having an opportunity to develop
10 leadership skills. In 2004, they convened people from all sectors throughout the community
11 to define a leadership program. That group became a governance committee to create a
12 leadership program, which launched in September. It brings together 21 participants.
13

14 Nelson asked how the participants are selected. Anderson stated there is an
15 application and interview process. A number of participants are from business, academic,
16 agriculture, government, and non-profit communities. They work on their leadership skills
17 and learn about community issues. It's a non-partisan program. There is a broad range of
18 participants from forestry, agriculture, business, non-profit, and government industries. It
19 brings people together to learn how to talk to each other.
20

21 Nelson stated he's never heard of this. Anderson stated it's a brand new program.
22

23 Nelson stated he's uncomfortable with funding this program. The Council has
24 already been stung on the Chamber issue this year. He's hesitant about funding without
25 fully knowing what the program entails. He hasn't heard of any selection requests going out
26 or anyone talking about this.
27

28 Crawford stated the scope of work is in the Council packet. He read from the packet
29 information. The items listed in the scope of work for this program make perfect sense,
30 except item four, which is to administer the Leadership Whatcom project. The purpose is to
31 bring citizens together to work on county health threats. Anderson stated this brings
32 together community leaders to discuss community issues. It's part of the community health
33 assessment as well as providing skills building for those participants.
34

35 Crawford stated the information on the website has little to do with health threats.
36 He is willing to rewrite the contract to make it more specific. Anderson stated they can do
37 that.
38

39 Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, stated the Leadership Whatcom
40 project isn't as directly linked as the other projects in the Public Health Improvement Plan.
41 The Health Department's role is to convene members of the community to talk about issues,
42 not all of which are health issues. A significant portion of those classes talked about health
43 and health issues. She has no problem with using State funding for this aspect of the
44 Coalition.
45

46 Caskey-Schreiber stated this is \$10,000 of County funds. She doesn't understand
47 the comparison with the Chamber, which was actively engaged in local political races. She
48 would like to know who has called the councilmembers about this issue. This is State pass-
49 through funds. If the State Health Director can justify the use of the funds, then there isn't
50 a problem.
51

52 Nelson stated this isn't about there being a problem. He's looking for clarification. If
53 the Council isn't clear on what the money will be used for, this may be the same situation.

1 The community lags behind in its disaster preparedness. There is lack of coordination in
2 helping them plan. This could be a valuable tool to facilitate that type of project. He's not
3 interested in teaching people to be community leaders. The contract infers there is a
4 training course. The contract needs to be clarified. If it is a training course, clarify what
5 people are being trained to do. He doesn't know what the curriculum is. Another question
6 is who selects the projects and checks up on the results of the training process. Anderson
7 stated the participants implement community projects that they work on and design in
8 coordination with the list of community issues. An agricultural preservation project and a
9 transportation project are examples of projects. It is not at all political. For ten years, the
10 organization has played a neutral role in the community.

11
12 Weimer stated he got a lot of information on this from Kathy Berg. She sees a real
13 need for this type of program. It organizes communities around a variety of issues. The
14 County already supports programs like this. He is fine with supporting this item. It would
15 be nice to see the curriculum.

16
17 Brenner stated this program provides people ways to become better stewards.
18 There isn't a close relationship to disaster planning. This is about day-to-day ways to make
19 better stewards, which is a Health Department issue. There is no downside to this.

20
21 McShane stated the Council struggles with the variety of committees that come
22 forward. The committees are only as good as its members. The Council wants people who
23 will be capable of taking on those issues in a constructive way. The Council needs to
24 support people in this way.

25
26 Brenner stated she would like to see some kind of a community welcome wagon
27 throughout Whatcom County. Someone needs to take leadership on that type of project. It
28 is a good way to get stewardship ideas into the smaller communities.

29
30 Nelson stated this agency is great. However, the Council cannot forget that the
31 things it spends money on can be perceived as partisan. The issues and concerns of this
32 group may be counter to the issues and concerns of other groups in the county that don't
33 receive public funding. Those other groups may have a different political opinion. Whether
34 or not that is healthier or safer is a judgment call. It is the same with transportation issues.
35 He is not opposed to having dialog from all parties. That's what this Council is really
36 interested in. Anderson stated that in all of their sessions, they seek to offer a wide variety
37 of perspectives. When they did the environment and natural resources session, they also
38 included people in forestry, agriculture, and other industries to offer many perspectives.
39 They include a lot of different perspective on these issues because they don't promote
40 issues. They strive to teach the complexities of the issues.

41
42 Nelson stated he has a problem with the language that says, "develop and
43 implement program curriculum."

44
45 Jerry Hunter, Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities Board President, stated
46 that any time people set out to learn, they have to have a curriculum, whatever it may be.
47 They have a program to give individuals a comprehensive view of the community. The
48 intent was not to operate this within the Coalition. However, no one wanted to take it on.
49 The Coalition didn't want to let the program go by the wayside. Instead, the Coalition
50 decided it would do this as long as the program is self-sustaining. This funding is for a
51 small percentage of administrative costs.

52

1 The Bellingham Herald included an article and editorial on the program. He really
2 believes in this program. He'd be very happy if some non-profit group stepped forward to
3 run the program. It is designed to be self-sustaining except for administrative costs.
4

5 Brenner stated there are plenty of examples in the community that are learning
6 experiences. All views will be presented. The program isn't partisan and polarizing. It is
7 all-encompassing.
8

9 Nelson stated the Council must be cautious with government funding when creating
10 an idea that may be contrary to others. He needs more information on the education
11 program. Anderson submitted information on the curriculum and program (*on file*).
12

13 Nelson stated he will support the request, but the Council must be better-educated
14 on the process.
15

16 Delahunt stated the program is self-supporting. This funding is just for
17 administration.
18

19 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.
20

21 Crawford stated he is against the motion. He would like it reviewed without this
22 component. He is not comfortable with item four. Rewrite the contract to directly address
23 the health issues of the community, which is the intended use of these dollars.
24

25 **Nelson** stated he would like to fully support the program. He asked if there is a
26 problem with getting more information before approval of that program. He **moved**
27 to amend the contract scope of work. Delahunt stated they can delete item four in the scope
28 of work. All the County dollars can go toward Healthy Community Network.
29

30 Crawford asked if the committee could amend the contract.
31

32 Desler stated the amendment is unusual, but the administration can facilitate it. He
33 doesn't object.
34

35 McShane stated there is a misunderstanding about what this item four is about.
36 Instead, add to number four a requirement that the curriculum is presented to the Council,
37 so the Council is informed. He senses that citizens who are concerned don't know what the
38 program is about. He senses that people may think this program trains people who have
39 political agendas. He doesn't see that happening. From a health perspective, those areas
40 must be represented. This is an important scope.
41

42 Crawford stated he researched the program, so he has a fairly good understanding of
43 the intent and curriculum. His issue is not that it's a bad program. His issue is using public
44 health dollars for this program. He is not commenting on whether or not the program is
45 good.
46

47 Nelson stated some of the areas of the program are good, but other areas may be of
48 concern to others in the community. He's not sure how some of the topics are related to
49 the health community.
50

51 Brenner stated there are some buzzwords in the contract that could be changed.
52 The topics in question are topics that all groups address to become more effective and
53 better people. That is a health issue.

1
2 Anderson stated the leadership programs include the health sector. There are a
3 number of health partnerships that have leadership programs and are supported by the
4 public sector. This is not an unusual request.
5

6 ***Motion to amend carried 2-1 with Weimer opposed.***
7

8 ***Motion to recommend approval as amended carried unanimously.***
9

- 10 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
11 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND LYDIA PLACE PROVIDING**
12 **FUNDING FROM COUNTY 2060 OPERATIONS FUNDS FOR AVAILABILITY OF**
13 **18 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING BEDS FOR WOMEN WITH CHILDREN AT LYDIA**
14 **PLACE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 (AB2006-138)**
15

16 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
17

18 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
19

- 20 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
21 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND NORTHWEST YOUTH**
22 **SERVICES PROVIDING FUNDING FROM COUNTY 2060 OPERATIONS FUNDS**
23 **FOR A 4-BED LICENSED FOSTER HOME, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000**
24 **(AB2006-139)**
25

26 ***Weimer moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
27

28 Brenner asked if a foster home is considered a mental health facility.
29

30 Gary Williams, Human Services Supervisor, stated it is not.
31

32 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
33

- 34 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
35 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND ~~NORTHWEST YOUTH~~**
36 **SERVICES SUN COMMUNITY SERVICES PROVIDING FUNDING FROM COUNTY**
37 **2060 OPERATIONS FUNDS FOR 4 EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS, IN THE**
38 **AMOUNT OF \$52,500 (AB2006-140)**
39

40 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this is amended to change the
41 contractor name from "Northwest Youth Services" to "Sun Community Services."
42

43 ***Weimer moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council as amended.
44

45 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
46

- 47 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
48 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WILSON ENGINEERING, LLC**
49 **TO CONDUCT A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY ON THE LOWER NOOKSACK RIVER,**
50 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$246,125 (AB2006-141)**
51

52 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
53

1 Fleetwood asked the definition of hydrographic survey.

2
3 Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated it is a survey that includes
4 the area under the water. The survey is done in a boat with an acoustic Doppler that
5 bounces sonar through the water to the bottom.
6

7 McShane stated Ms. Cooper did a good job of convincing him about this survey. It
8 will not lead to removing sediment from the river being an option. He supports it for flood
9 modeling. Cooper stated they need to know how the river changes over time.
10

11 Nelson stated the information will be valuable when they assess dikes and other
12 mechanisms. There is no question there will be sediment loading. They must plan for that
13 by knowing how and where it will occur.
14

15 Weimer asked how this fits into the priority of all the different water things the
16 County is doing. Cooper stated the modeling is separate from the other water resource
17 protection items. In 1999, the County adopted the Lower Nooksack Comprehensive Flood
18 Hazard Management Plan, which includes seven different components. One component is to
19 develop and use a hydraulic model to look at change to the system. Another component is
20 to develop a sediment management strategy. The first step of the sediment management
21 strategy is to understand how the river changes over time. This survey will feed two of the
22 seven components in the plan.
23

24 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*
25

26 Weimer asked if this is as high a priority as controlling flooding upriver. Cooper
27 stated it is all related. Next month, they will prioritize the little pieces of the work program.
28 This was a priority in the past. Staff is implementing the priorities as they come up.
29

30 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
31

- 32 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
33 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND EXIGENT COMPUTER GROUP,**
34 **INC. (WITH SOLE SOURCE DESIGNATION) FOR THE SOFTWARE**
35 **TECHNOLOGY TO AUGMENT THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE RECORDING SYSTEM TO**
36 **PERFORM INITIAL AUTOMATIC REDACTION AND AUTOMATIC INDEXING OF**
37 **THE DOCUMENTS RECORDED IN THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE, IN THE AMOUNT**
38 **OF \$134,072 FOR SOFTWARE AND ESTIMATED SUPPORT (AB2006-142)**
39

40 ***Crawford*** stated he hopes this gets them closer to seeing deeds on the internet. He
41 ***moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
42

43 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
44

- 45 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT**
46 **ADDENDUM 4 BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND RICH ULLSMITH, DDS,**
47 **INCREASING HOURS AT THE COUNTY JAIL FOR DENTAL SERVICES FROM 24**
48 **DAYS PER YEAR TO 42 DAYS PER YEAR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,320, FOR A**
49 **TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$34,320 (AB2006-143)**
50

51 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
52

53 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

1
2 **9. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WHATCOM COUNTY RAPID BORDER**
3 **PROSECUTION INITIATIVE (AB2006-149)**
4

5 Crawford stated councilmembers recently visited federal legislators in Washington
6 D.C. Two of the legislators asked the County to have resolutions from the Council saying it
7 endorses this and the following two Consent Agenda items. He asked if there are dollar
8 amounts on the resolutions.
9

10 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the resolution is a policy statement from
11 the County Council. The County has received federal funding from government, which they
12 want to continue.
13

14 Crawford stated each of these three resolutions is in support of the Executive's
15 efforts.
16

17 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
18

19 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
20

21 **10. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WHATCOM COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL**
22 **DATA INTEGRATION PROJECT (AB2006-148)**
23

24 See Consent Agenda item nine for discussion of this item.
25

26 ***Weimer moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
27

28 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
29

30 **11. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING LAKE WHATCOM (AB2006-147)**
31

32 See Consent Agenda item nine for discussion of this item.
33

34 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
35

36 McShane asked if it would be useful to add as a Whereas statement that describes
37 some of the activities the County has done the last number of years. There have been
38 significant efforts. The County has really been doing a lot on this.
39

40 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it would be useful. In Washington D.C.,
41 they said they want additional federal funds to match State and local funds that would
42 address stormwater issues.
43

44 McShane stated there has been past discussions about capital improvement monies
45 from the State for this very project. A conversation occurred between people at the City
46 and State legislators in which it was said that the County wasn't doing everything it should
47 to protect the lake and, therefore, shouldn't get any money. Therefore, any time anything
48 comes up regarding Lake Whatcom, the County should point out its tremendous efforts to
49 protect the lake. He will pull Whereas statements from other resolutions to include them in
50 this resolution.
51

52 Crawford stated he agreed.
53

1 Nelson stated include it as an attachment, not within the resolution, so staff and
2 legislators will get right to the point. Also include information about land acquisitions that
3 the County pays for through the Conservation Futures program and about the County's
4 work with Sudden Valley. Show the concerted effort between the Joint Lake Whatcom
5 Management Committee. There is a lot of activity, but still focus on why they need the
6 money for the projects focusing on stormwater.
7

8 Crawford stated the federal legislators want to know that the County and others are
9 unanimous on these issues.

10 Desler stated the administration identified a federal grant program if the County can
11 come up with a 45 percent match. He will work on that grant. The administration is trying
12 to engage the federal government, and the federal government is coming to the County
13 with ideas, which is great.
14

15 Crawford stated Councilmember McShane can add his language at the evening
16 meeting.
17

18 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

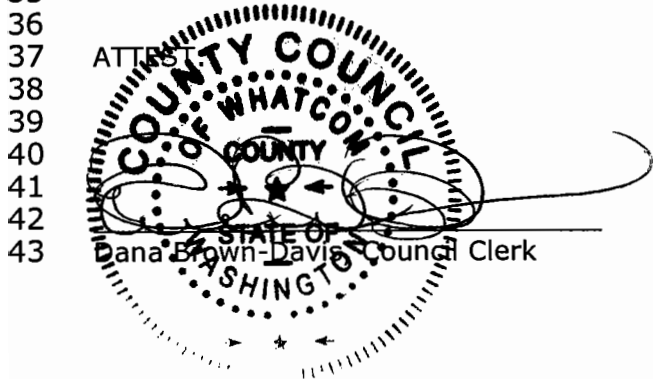
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20
21 **OTHER BUSINESS**

22 There was no other business.
23

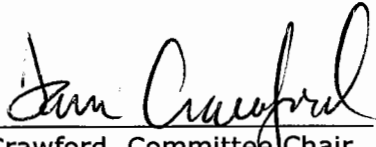
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26 **ADJOURN**

27 The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
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34 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Sam Crawford, Committee Chair